A SPEECH CONCERNING A West Indie Association, at a Committee of the whole house in the *Parliament*, 21. Iacobi.

By Sir *Benjamin Rudyerd*.

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A SPEECH CONCERNING a WEST INDIE Aſſociation, at a Committee of the whole Houſe of Parliament.

Sir *Dudley Digs*,

Doe profeſſe, that as my Affection, my Reaſon, and my Iudgement, goe ſtrongly with the ſcope and drift of this Propoſition; ſo ſhall a good part of my poore fortune, when it comes to execution.

For to my underſtanding, there was never propounded in Parliament, a deſigne more proper for this kingdome, nor of more pregnant advantage to it,

whether we conſider the nature of our ſituation, or the quality of our Enemies Forces.

As wee are an Iland, it concernes our very being to have ſtore of ſhips to defend us, and alſo our well-being by their Trade to enrich us.

This aſſociation for the *Weſt Indies*, when it ſhall bee regulated and eſtabliſhed by act of Parliament, and thereby ſecured from the violence and injury of any intruding hand, it will certainely give many men encouragement & confidence, voluntarily to bring in large and liberall contributions, towards ſo noble, ſo profitable an Enterpriſe. So that in ſhort time, we ſhall ſee many new ſhips built, many brave men employed, and enabled for the ſervice of their country, none of this money ſhall be carried out of the kingdome, but laid out for ſhipping, which is the defence of it, and beſtowed upon our owne men, who muſt be fed and maintained, though they ſtay

at home. For this, wee ſhall reape the fruit of whatſoever benefit Plantation, Trafficke, or Purchaſe can procure us, beſides honour and ſecurity.

Now, let us a little conſider the Enemy wee are to encounter, the King of *Spaine*. They are not his great territories which make him ſo powerfull, and ſo troubleſome to all Chriſtendome. For it is very well knowne, that *Spaine* it ſelfe is but weake in men, and barren of naturall Commodities. As for his other Territories, they lye divided and aſunder, which is a weakneſſe in its ſelfe; beſides, they are held by force, and maintained at an extraordinary charge. Inſomuch, as although he be a great King, yet is he like that great Gyant, who was ſaid to have 100 hands, but he had 50 bellies to feed, ſo that ratably, hee had no more hands then another man.

No Sir, they are his Mines in the *Weſt Indies*, which miniſter fuell to feed his vaſt ambitious deſire of univerſall Mo-

chy: It is the money he hath from thence, which makes him able to levy, and pay ſouldiers in all places; and to keepe an army continually on foot, ready to invade and endanger his Neighbours.

So that we have no other way, but to endeavour to cut him up at root, and ſeeke to impeach, or to ſupplant him in the *Weſt Indies*. By part of which courſe, that famous Queene of moſt glorious memory, had heretofore almoſt brought him on his knees. And this our undertaking (if it pleaſe God to bleſſe it) muſt needs effect it ſooner and quicker: the whole body of the Kingdome being united and concurring in a perpetuall ſupply to this action, ſo that he wil have no free time given him to reſt.

Moreover, this will be a meanes not only to ſave, but to fill His Majeſties Coffers, enabling the people to give him liberally, and often; the Kings ſhips will have little to doe, but to guard the coaſts, for the Sea-warre will chiefly bee made

at

at the charge of the ſubject. Thus, (Sir *Dudley Digs*) I doubt not but that in ſhort time, both King and people ſhall be ſafe at home, and feared abroad.

To conclude, I ſhall be very glad to heare any man make objections againſt this Deſigne, ſo that hee doe it with an intention to refine and perfect the worke; but if any ſhall ſpeake againſt it with a mind to hinder and deſtroy it, I muſt entreat him to pardon me, if I doe ſcarce thinke him to bee a good Engliſh-man.

FINIS.